

Appl. No.: 10/775,171
Amdt. Dated September 17, 2007
Reply to Office Action of June 19, 2007

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, or claims in the application:

Claim listing:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Previously Presented) The assembly as set forth in Claim 25, wherein:
when the underlying roof decking substructure comprises a corrugated roof decking substructure, comprising a plurality of crest portions spaced from each other by means of predetermined distances, said plurality of seam plates are fixedly mounted upon said substrate at predeterminedly spaced positions which correspond to the predetermined distances defined between the plurality of spaced crest portions of the underlying corrugated roof decking substructure so as to ensure said plurality of seam plates can be fixedly secured to the plurality of spaced crest portions of the underlying corrugated roof decking substructure.
3. (Previously Presented) The assembly as set forth in Claim 25, wherein:
when the underlying roof decking substructure comprises a non-corrugated roof decking substructure, said plurality of seam plates are fixedly mounted upon said substrate at predeterminedly spaced positions which will ensure the secure fixation of the environmental membranes to the underlying non-corrugated roof decking substructure in such a manner that the environmental membranes will exhibit uplifting wind force resistance so as to remain fixed to the underlying non-corrugated roof decking substructure despite being exposed to significant uplifting wind forces.

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4. (Previously Presented) The assembly as set forth in Claim 25, wherein:
each one of said plurality of seam plates has a plurality of projections extending downwardly from undersurface portions of each one of said plurality of seam plates for engaging each one of the environmental membranes; and
said substrate has a substantially C-shaped cross-sectional configuration comprising an upper planar member disposed atop said plurality of seam plates, and a pair of lower planar flap-type members folded inwardly from opposite side edge portions of said upper planar member.
5. (Original) The assembly as set forth in Claim 4, further comprising:
heat-sealed regions defined around peripheral edge portions of each one of said plurality of seam plates for securing each one of said plurality of seam plates to said substrate.
6. (Original) The assembly as set forth in Claim 4, wherein:
each one of said plurality of seam plates has a predetermined lateral extent;
said upper planar member of said substrate has a lateral extent which is at least equal to said lateral extent of each one of said plurality of seam plates so as to cover upper surface portions of each one of said plurality of seam plates; and
said flap-type members have lateral extents which are less than said predetermined lateral extent of each one of said plurality of seam plates such that when said flap-type members are folded beneath each one of said plurality of seam plates, said flap-type members will only partially cover undersurface portions of each one of said plurality of seam plates so as to enable at least some of said projections of said seam plates to freely engage the environmental membranes.
7. (Currently Amended) The assembly as set forth in Claim 4, wherein:
each one of said plurality of seam plates has a predetermined lateral extent;
said upper planar member of said substrate has a lateral extent which is at least

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equal to said lateral extent of each one of said plurality of seam plates so as to cover upper surface portions of each one of said plurality of seam plates; and

said flap-type members each have lateral extents which are approximately equal one-half of said lateral extent of said upper planar member of said substrate such that when said flap-type members are folded beneath each one of said plurality of seam plates, said flap-type members will substantially cover entire undersurface portions of each one of said plurality of seam plates wherein said ~~pre-jections~~ projections of said seam plates will engage said folded flap-type members of said substrate when said plurality of seam plates are secured to the underlying roof decking ~~substructure~~ substructure so as to also engage the environmental membranes.

8. (Currently Amended) The assembly as set forth in Claim 25, wherein:

each one of said plurality of seam plates has a plurality of projections extending downwardly from undersurface portions of each one of said plurality of seam plates for engaging each one of the environmental membranes; and

said substrate has a substantially V-shaped cross-sectional configuration comprising an upper planar member disposed atop said plurality of seam plates, and a lower planar member folded along a first side edge portion of said substrate so as to be disposed beneath said plurality of seam plates wherein said projections of said seam plates will engage said lower planar member of said substrate when said plurality of seam plates are secured to the underlying roof decking substructure so as to also engage the ~~environ-mental~~ environmental membranes.

9. (Original) The assembly as set forth in Claim 8, further comprising:

heat-seal regions defined around peripheral edge portions of each one of said plurality of seam plates for securing each one of said plurality of seam plates to said substrate.

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10. (Original) The assembly as set forth in Claim 8, further comprising:
a longitudinally-extending heat seal region defined along a second oppositely disposed side edge portion of said substrate so as to affix said upper and lower planar members of said substrate together.
11. (Previously Presented) The assembly as set forth in Claim 25, further comprising:
adhesive means for adhesively bonding upper surface portions of each one of said plurality of seam plates to said substrate.
12. (Previously Presented) The assembly as set forth in Claim 25, further comprising:
foldable prong means mounted upon each one of said plurality of seam plates for piercing said substrate and securing each one of said plurality of seam plates upon said substrate when said foldable prong means are folded into engagement with said substrate so as to effectively entrap portions of said substrate between said folded prong means and each one of said plurality of seam plates.
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Currently Amended) The assembly as set forth in Claim 31, wherein:
said underlying roof decking substructure comprises a corrugated roof decking substructure, comprising a plurality of crest portions spaced from each other by means of predetermined distances; and
said plurality of seam plates are fixedly mounted upon said at least one substrate at predeterminedly spaced positions which correspond to said predetermined distances defined between said plurality of spaced crest portions of said underlying corrugated roof decking substructure so as to ensure said plurality of seam plates being fixedly ~~secure-ed~~ secured to said plurality of spaced crest portions of said underlying corrugated roof decking substructure.

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15. (Previously Presented) The assembly as set forth in Claim 31, wherein:
said underlying roof decking substructure comprises a non-corrugated roof decking substructure; and
said plurality of seam plates are fixedly mounted upon said at least one substrate at predeterminedly spaced positions which will ensure the secure fixation of said environmental membranes to said underlying non-corrugated roof decking substructure in such a manner that said environmental membranes will exhibit uplifting wind force resistance so as to remain fixed to said underlying non-corrugated roof decking substructure despite being exposed to significant uplifting wind forces.
16. (Previously Presented) The assembly as set forth in Claim 31, wherein:
each one of said plurality of seam plates has a plurality of projections extending downwardly from undersurface portions of each one of said plurality of seam plates for engaging each one of said plurality of environmental membranes; and
said substrate has a substantially C-shaped cross-sectional configuration comprising an upper planar member disposed atop said plurality of seam plates, and a pair of lower planar flap-type members folded inwardly from opposite side edge portions of said upper planar member.
17. (Original) The assembly as set forth in Claim 16, further comprising:
heat-sealed regions defined around peripheral edge portions of each one of said plurality of seam plates for securing each one of said plurality of seam plates to said substrate.
18. (Currently Amended) The assembly as set forth in Claim 16, wherein:
each one of said plurality of seam plates has a predetermined lateral extent;
said upper planar member of said substrate has a lateral extent which is at least equal to said lateral extent of each one of said plurality of seam plates so as to cover upper surface portions of each one of said plurality of seam plates; and

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said flap-type members have lateral extents which are less than said predetermined lateral extent of each one of said plurality of seam plates such that when said flap-type members are folded beneath each one of said plurality of seam plates, said flap-type members will only partially cover undersurface portions of each one of said plurality of seam plates so as to enable at least some of said ~~project-tions~~ projections of said seam plates to freely engage said plurality of environmental membranes.

19. (Currently Amended) The assembly as set forth in Claim 16, wherein:
- each one of said plurality of seam plates has a predetermined lateral extent;
 - said upper planar member of said substrate has a lateral extent which is at least equal to said lateral extent of each one of said plurality of seam plates so as to cover upper surface portions of each one of said plurality of seam plates; and
 - said flap-type members each have lateral extents which are approximately equal to one-half of said lateral extent of said upper planar member of said substrate such that when said flap-type members are folded beneath each one of said plurality of seam plates, said flap-type members will substantially cover entire undersurface portions of each one of said plurality of seam plates wherein said ~~pre-jections~~ projections of said seam plates will engage said folded flap-type members of said substrate when said plurality of seam plates are secured to said underlying roof decking ~~substructure~~ substructure so as to also engage said plurality of environmental membranes.

20. (Previously Presented) The assembly as set forth in Claim 31, wherein:
- each one of said plurality of seam plates has a plurality of projections extending downwardly from undersurface portions of each one of said plurality of seam plates for engaging each one of said plurality of environmental membranes; and
 - said substrate has a substantially V-shaped cross-sectional configuration comprising an upper planar member disposed atop said plurality of seam plates, and a

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lower planar member folded along a first side edge portion of said substrate so as to be disposed beneath said plurality of seam plates wherein said projections of said seam plates will engage said lower planar member of said substrate when said plurality of seam plates are secured to said underlying roof decking substructure so as to also engage said plurality of environmental membranes.

21. (Original) The assembly as set forth in Claim 20, further comprising:
heat-seal regions defined around peripheral edge portions of each one of said plurality of seam plates for securing each one of said plurality of seam plates to said substrate.
22. (Original) The assembly as set forth in Claim 20, further comprising:
a longitudinally-extending heat seal region defined along a second oppositely disposed side edge portion of said substrate so as to affix said upper and lower planar members of said substrate together.
23. (Previously Presented) The assembly as set forth in Claim 31, further comprising:
adhesive means for adhesively bonding upper surface portions of each one of said plurality of seam plates to said substrate.
24. (Previously Presented) The assembly as set forth in Claim 31, further comprising:
foldable prong means mounted upon each one of said plurality of seam plates for piercing said substrate and securing each one of said plurality of seam plates upon said substrate when said foldable prong means are folded into engagement with said substrate so as to effectively entrap portions of said substrate between said folded prong means and each one of said plurality of seam plates.
25. (Currently Amended) An assembly for facilitating the fixed mounting of roof membrane seam plates at predetermined locations upon an underlying roof decking

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substructure by means of fasteners, comprising:

a substrate, comprising at least one ply, having a longitudinal extent and a predetermined first transverse dimension as defined between oppositely disposed side edge portions; and

a plurality of seam plates, for fixing environmental membranes upon an underlying roof decking substructure, said seam plates being affixed to said substrate independently of the fasteners and having second transverse dimensions which are not greater than said first transverse dimensions of said substrate so as to be fixedly mounted upon said at least one ply of said substrate in such a manner that said plurality of seam plates are disposed transversely inwardly between said oppositely disposed side edge portions of said substrate, and at predeterminedly spaced positions spaced along said longitudinal extent of said substrate, so as to define with said substrate an integral product entity such that when a first one of said plurality of seam plates is fixedly secured at a first location along the underlying roof decking substructure by means of a fastener, the remaining ones of said plurality of seam plates, fixedly attached to said substrate at said predetermined positions spaced along said longitudinal extent of said substrate, will inherently be disposed at the remaining ones of the predetermined locations along the underlying roof decking substructure at which said seam plates are to be fixedly secured by the fasteners so as to ensure the proper fixation of said seam plates to the underlying roof decking substructure whereby, in turn, the fixation of the environmental membranes, upon the underlying roof decking substructure, will likewise be ensured.

26. (Previously Presented) The assembly as set forth in Claim 25, wherein:

said substrate comprises a structure selected from the group comprising a suitable tape, paper, film, fabric, metal wire, metal sheet, batten strip, and batten bar.

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27. (Previously Presented) The assembly as set forth in Claim 25, wherein:
said substrate comprises at least a pair of substrates fixedly connected together
along at least one longitudinally extending seam portion.
28. (Previously Presented) The assembly as set forth in Claim 25, wherein:
said substrate comprises a flattened tubular member; and
said plurality of seam plates are fixedly secured within said tubular member by
means of heat-sealed peripheral regions.
29. (Currently Amended) The assembly as set forth in Claim 25, wherein:
said substrate is ~~fabricated from~~ comprised of a suitable material ~~which exhibits~~
that has a sufficient amount of flexibility so as to permit said substrate to be rolled into
a coiled form.
30. (Currently Amended) The assembly as set forth in Claim 25, wherein:
said substrate is ~~fabricated from~~ comprised of a suitable material ~~which exhibits~~
that has a sufficient amount of flexibility so as to permit said substrate to be folded in a
pleated array in order to permit said seam plates to be stacked in a nested array with
respect to each other.
31. (Currently Amended) A roof decking assembly for facilitating the fixed mounting
of roof membrane seam plates at predetermined locations upon an underlying roof
decking substructure by means of fasteners, comprising:
an underlying roof decking substructure;
an insulation panel disposed atop said roof decking substructure;
a plurality of environmental membranes adapted to be fixedly secured atop said
insulation panel;
at least one substrate, comprising at least one ply, having a longitudinal extent
and a predetermined first transverse dimension as defined between oppositely disposed

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side edge portions; and

a plurality of seam plates, for fixing said plurality of environmental membranes upon said underlying roof decking substructure, said seam plates being affixed to said substrate independently of the fasteners and having second transverse dimensions which are not greater than said first transverse dimensions of said at least one substrate so as to be fixedly mounted upon said at least one ply of said at least one substrate in such a manner that said plurality of seam plates are disposed transversely inwardly between said oppositely disposed side edge portions of said at least one substrate, and at predeterminedly spaced positions spaced along said longitudinal extent of said at least one substrate, so as to define with said at least one substrate an integral product entity such that when a first one of said plurality of seam plates is fixedly secured at a first location along said underlying roof decking substructure by means of a fastener, the remaining ones of said plurality of seam plates, fixedly attached to said at least one substrate at said predetermined positions spaced along said longitudinal extent of said at least one substrate, will inherently be disposed at the remaining ones of the predetermined locations along said underlying roof decking substructure at which said seam plates are to be fixedly secured by the fasteners so as to ensure the proper fixation of said seam plates to said underlying roof decking substructure whereby, in turn, the fixation of the environmental membranes, upon said underlying roof decking substructure, will likewise be ensured.

32. (Previously Presented) The assembly as set forth in Claim 31, wherein:
said substrate comprises a structure selected from the group comprising a suitable tape, paper, film, fabric, metal wire, metal sheet, batten strip, and batten bar.
33. (Previously Presented) The assembly as set forth in Claim 31, wherein:
said substrate comprises at least a pair of substrates fixedly connected together along at least one longitudinally extending seam portion.

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34. (Previously Presented) The assembly as set forth in Claim 31, wherein:
said substrate comprises a flattened tubular member; and
said plurality of seam plates are fixedly secured within said tubular member by means of heat-sealed peripheral regions.
35. (Currently Amended) The assembly as set forth in Claim 31, wherein:
said substrate is ~~fabricated from~~ comprised of a suitable material ~~which exhibits~~
that has a sufficient amount of flexibility so as to permit said substrate to be rolled into a coiled form.
36. (Currently Amended) The assembly as set forth in Claim 31, wherein:
said substrate is ~~fabricated from~~ comprised of a suitable material ~~which exhibits~~
that has a sufficient amount of flexibility so as to permit said substrate to be folded in a pleated array in order to permit said seam plates to be stacked in a nested array with respect to each other.